

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 28, 2025

PREPARED BY: Shawn Muir, Community Services Manager

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO EXEMPT THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE FROM PALM DESERT MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY BODY OFFICERS

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the Parks and Recreation Committee's request to be exempted from Palm Desert Municipal Code related to the appointment of advisory body officers (Ordinance 1430).

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

At its July 10, 2025, meeting, the City Council introduced Ordinance 1430 amending Palm Desert Municipal Code Section 2.34.050(A) (second reading August 28, 2025). The action directed the City Clerk to immediately implement a policy establishing an annual rotation of advisory body chairperson and vice chairperson positions using a numeric seat-based system.

At the August 5, 2025, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, staff presented the new ordinance. As outlined in a memo from the City Clerk included in the meeting agenda packet, Mr. Ralph Perry would be appointed Chairperson and Mr. Randy Guyer appointed Vice Chairperson, as shown in the chart below:

Seat	Member	Chairperson Term
1	Ralph Perry	July 2025 – June 2026
2	Randy Guyer	July 2026 – June 2027
3	Rob Langford	July 2027 – June 2028
4	Paul Murphy	July 2028 – June 2029
5	David O'Donnell	July 2029 – June 2030
6	Tim Skogen	July 2030 – June 2031
7	John Maldonado	July 2031 – June 2032

After discussion, the Committee concluded that the rotational appointment process was not favorable and expressed a preference for the previous nomination and voting system, under which members submit nominations for each position and appointments are determined by majority vote. While following this system, the Parks and Recreation Committee has generally paired a longer-serving member as Chair with a newer member as Vice Chair, though this has been treated as a guiding practice rather than a formal rule.

There was consensus on appointing Ralph Perry as the new Chairperson. A motion to appoint Mr. Perry as Chairperson for FY 2025/26 and to defer the Vice Chairperson appointment pending the City Council's decision on a request to exempt the Committee from Palm Desert Municipal

City of Palm Desert

Approve Request to Exempt the Parks & Recreation Committee from Rotational Appointment

Code Section 2.34.050(A) was unanimously approved, with the motion made by Committee Member Paul Murphy and seconded by Chair Maldonado.

Staff is submitting this request to the City Council for consideration. Should the request be approved, staff will return with a staff report presenting a revised ordinance allowing for this exemption.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Minutes of Parks and Recreation Committee
2. Officer Elections Memo from City Clerk
3. Ordinance No. 1430